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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CIA Successes?

Editor: I read Allan E. Goodman's article in *The Sun* June 25, "An End to Covert Action." And I thoroughly agree with his premise that the U.S. government should keep the CIA out of covert action defined as "military operations, training of insurgents as well as political propaganda and economic support to influence events and leaders abroad."

I am with him all the way but I was shocked and dismayed to have such an obviously informed person give as two examples of CIA successes, first, the overthrow of Iranian Prime Minister Mohammed Mosaddegh and the restoration of the shah, and second, the overthrow of the "Communist-style" government of Guatemala in 1954.

If these be successes God preserve us from failures. Doesn't Mr. Goodman see any connection between our CIA overthrowing Mosaddegh in Iran and forcing the shah on the Iranian people and the return of the ayatollah and the hostage crisis 25 years later? We may have had our way in Iran then, but we have since reaped the whirlwind of our actions.

We stand outraged at their hatred of us and at their taking of hostages "for no good reason." Our policy in the Middle East is in a shambles and we really don't know what to do about it. This is success?

Guatemala's so-called "Communist-style" government was a duly

electd one but was guilty of trying to buy back a million acres owned there by American corporations. According to Americans who have lived in the country, the Guatemalan government was willing to pay for the land but at the price the corporations were declaring it was worth on the tax roles. So the corporations called John Foster Dulles who called his brother Allen Dulles of our CIA and you have another of our success stories. With our country's tacit approval, the military government which overthrew the legitimate government has been shooting, torturing, maiming the peasants ever since. Americans who have been there say Guatemala is the most repressive, inhuman and fascist of all those sad little countries which make up Central America. Would you call that a success story?

We have a lot to answer for since we have started covert action against other countries. I pray to God that we will have the wisdom, courage and morality to cease and desist.

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